

**TULARE COUNTY WATER COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
February 10, 2014**

Members Present:

Allen Ishida, Board Representative and Chairman
Richard L. Schafer, District 5 Appointee
Paul Boyer, District 1 Appointee
Mike Ennis, Board Alternate Representative
Dale Brogan, District 2 Appointee
Susana De Anda, At-Large Appointee
Rudy Mendoza, TCAG Representative
Dennis Keller, At-Large Appointee
Mark Larsen, District 3 Appointee
Chris Kapheim, District 4 Appointee

Members Absent:

Keith Watkins, At-Large Appointee

Staff Present:

Julieta Martinez, Tulare County Board of Supervisors
Denise Akins, County Administrative Office
Will Jackson, County Counsel

Members of the Public who voluntarily provided their names on the attendance sheet:

Pat Pinkham
W. Dale Sally
Nilsa Gonzalez
Michael Hickey
Shane Smith
Kim Loeb
Richard Garcia
Carol Combs
Jake Raper, RMA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:02pm.

2. Public Comment Period

None at this time.

3. Approval of Minutes from September 9, 2013 meeting
Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2013 meeting
Approval of Minutes from January 13, 2014 meeting

Commissioner De Anda asked to make a correction on the January 13, 2014 minutes. Under item number six. She asked to rephrase a sentence to state that the Management Non-Infrastructure Pilot is in the stage of incorporation and feedback not the final stage.

Motion to approve the minutes along with the suggested corrections was made by Commissioner Schafer, second by Commissioner Mendoza. Motion approved.

4. Kaweah IRWM Plan

Commissioner Larsen shared that they are in process of adopting the IRWM Plan but are first looking for feedback. There is a meeting coming up with the IRWM Stakeholder Group on February 18th. He stated that if anyone would like to attend and provide their feedback that would be great. The document is very comprehensive with a lot of history and detail involved in it. It describes the current IRWM operation in place today and lines up with DWR standards.

Denise Akins provided the commissioners with a draft of the table of contents. There is one hard copy of the plan but it can be made available upon request.

Chairman Ishida asked Denise Akins if she was available to attend the meeting on behalf of the Board of Supervisors due to a scheduling conflict. She agreed to attend.

5. Kaweah Prop 84 Implementation Grant Project

Denise Akins shared that the project has been a long time coming. It is a groundwater quality and protection project. This project is aimed at benefiting the disadvantaged communities within the Kaweah IRWM. Two of the communities being focused on are Lindcove and Tooleville.

Commissioner De Anda asked a question on the feasibility studies. She wanted to know what the process was to identify those two communities and what the cost is for the studies.

Denise Akins commented that there was not a lot of funding for the feasibility studies, it was about 80 thousand dollars total. Tooleville was something Kaweah Delta had been looking at independently.

Commissioner De Anda asked if any community outreach had been done.

Commissioner Keller shared that in Lindcove there was a feasibility study done relative to wastewater collection and treatment. There was some recommendation that came out of that process that involved the City of Woodlake. There were questions with respect to costs and governance. With respect to Tooleville, there are some issues related to their charter city status and issues related to conveyance of water from a potable well. There's been some obstacles there.

Commissioner De Anda asked if anyone had been speaking with the Mutual Board in Tooleville.

Commissioner Keller responded that there had not been communication. This is just a seedling in terms of where would you start to take a look at doing these kinds of things.

Commissioner Boyer stated that Jessi Snyder, who was in attendance, works with the Tooleville Board and is currently helping Tooleville implement a state planning grant. He agrees it's good to look at any options that could help with water in Tulare County including Tooleville. It's good to have all feasible options both groundwater and surface water investigated especially to prepare for water shortages when canals might be down. He shared that he believed Jessi Snyder had discussed the potential of Kaweah IRWMP feasibility study funding with the Tooleville Board at their meeting the previous week. He cautioned that he hoped the initiation of a new feasibility study would not delay the implementation of planning tasks including securing a well site that are already under way.

Maria Herrera of Community Water Center asked to make a comment on the matter. She began by thanking the Kaweah Board for submitting their application. She shared that she really sees this as an opportunity to use these funds adequately and on those projects that truly can help those communities in a way that doesn't complicate local efforts which she is aware is not the intention. Additionally, she stated that it is very important not to come across as if we are prescribing the solution. This is the first time the community is learning about this. The community really wants to be kept in the loop as they have done so much work to reestablish their governing structure. It's hard to see that they are not communicated with. She asked that Kaweah and the County consider what type of role they want to play in this. She encouraged both in their vetting projects to really establish the criteria.

Commissioner Larsen stated that he was surprised that a community needing help is passing up \$40,000 to help in that process. Our evaluation was done in what we thought were needs that were out there. It's not only what things seems feasible but doable. He was a little surprised that the community wants to turn down

an opportunity like this.

Jessi Snyder, Self Help, asked to make a comment. She has been working with the Tooleville Mutual Board and shared that their feedback was that they were open to hearing about the project. She certainly did not get the feeling that they were opposed to it.

6. Discussion on drought emergency

Commissioner Boyer shared that as a citizen he went to the Farmersville City Council to suggest they get water conservation literature out to customers. He is aware that this doesn't help the big issue of bringing water in but he would hope the communities try to preserve what they can.

Denise Akins provided the Commissioners with copies of a weekly drought review that was distributed by Rep. Kevin McCarthy's office. She stated that if the Commission was interested, she could have it sent out every Monday as a new update is provided. She also introduced Andre Lockman who was in attendance. He is with the County Office of Emergency Services.

Andrew Lockman described the role of the Office of Emergency Services as being the coordination point for the County. He just wanted to share with the Commission that the County has proclaimed a Local Emergency and all the districts facing drought conditions also have the ability to proclaim a state of emergency. They are consolidating information county wide and getting that information up to the state. Everything going to the state needs to go through the office of emergency services operation area. He shared that the US Department of Agriculture has offered relief funding but much of the response is that nobody wants money, they want water. He asked that any infrastructure damage that special districts are facing be reported to the Office of Emergency Services so that they may assist in possibly attaining some funding.

Chairman Ishida agreed with Andrew Lockman and reiterated that farmers are in need of water and not money. He asked that any independent systems, keep track of their expenses as there may be eligible for relief funding.

Commissioner Brogan commented on data that he looked up, we have received about 32% of the average annual water supply by this time of year in the Tulare Lake Basin. We are still below what was considered the driest year (1977). While the rain helped it didn't fix a thing.

Commissioner Keller shared that due to the intervention of a number of politicians the river restoration program flows were terminated a month early and they were able to preserve thirteen and one half acre feet. The bureau convened a conference call last Friday at 3:30 pm and discussed the first round of the allocation of that thirteen and one half acre feet. The cost of that program will cost about four hundred dollars acre foot.

7. Update on Tulare Lake Basin Disadvantage Community Water Study

Denise Akins stated that the group is pretty much in the same spot they were in January. The Individual Household Pilot still hasn't gone out for the community review. There will be another Stakeholder Advisory Oversight Committee meeting on April 21, 2014.

8. Subcommittee Reports

None at this time.

9. Staff Reports

None at this time.

10. Commissioners Comments

Commissioner Schafer mentioned that the issue with respect to the boundary of the Tule Basin Water Quality Coalition, and inclusion of the upper water shed was resolved on February 4th with the Regional

Board's Issuance of a Notice of Applicability. He was not sure where the Kaweah stands.

Commissioner Kapheim shared that there are issues with groundwater this year and there are a lot of different interests working on it. The governor does have in his budget the intent to look at groundwater monitoring.

Chairman Ishida received an email from Maria Herrera about the Presidents visit to the central valley. He is still trying to set up a meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Supervisors to be held in Merced, which is being done independent of the San Joaquin Partnership.

11. Next meeting – Monday, March 10, 2014, 3:00 p.m. – Board of Supervisors Chambers

12. Adjourn